

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 AF-06 OPIC-03 CIAE-00 PM-03

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SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 /074 W

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P R 211700Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3481

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4110

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: A. LISBON 4083; B. LISBON 3875 C. LISBON 4088

SUMMARY: REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC) HAS MADE NO FURTHER COMMENT SINCE JULY 19 STATEMENT READ BY PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES RE FORMATION OF NON-PARTY GOVERNMENT. RC MEETS AGAIN AFTERNOON JULY 21. TWO LARGE PPD-SUPPORTED DEMONSTRATIONS TOOK PLACE IN NORTH ON JULY 20. J-5 FIFTH DIVISION, (PROPAGANDA AND CULTURAL DYNAMIZATION) OF ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF ISSUED SECOND COMMUNIQUE JULY 21 CONDEMNING SOCIALISTS AND PRAISING PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES. PCP AND PS HAVE ISSUED SEPARATE STATEMENTS TRADING CHARGES AND CLAIMING VICTORY AS RESULT OF EVENTS JULY 18 - 19. PRIME MINISTER HAS BEEN EMBARRASSED BY LEAK OF POLITICAL ANALYSIS AUTHORED BY HIM AND DISTRIBUTED CONFIDENTIALLY
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TO MILITARY UNITS. COPCON COMMANDER GENERAL OTELO DE CARVALHO

DEPARTED JULY 21 FOR ONE-WEEK TRIP TO CUBA. END SUMMARY

1. RC DELIBERATES: NO FURTHER WORD HAS COME FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC) SINCE JULY 19 STATEMENT BY ITS CHAIRMAN, PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES, THAT NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD BE "NON-PARTY" REFLECTING VARIOUS SOCIALIST CURRENTS. RC PLENARY RESUMES DELIBERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON, JULY 21.

2. DEMONSTRATIONS IN NORTH: LARGE PPD-SUPPORTED DEMONSTRATIONS TOOK PLACE ON JULY 20 IN NORTHERN CITIES OF VISEU AND VILA REAL. TENSIONS REMAIN HIGH IN VISEU, WHICH WAS SCENE OF TWO DEMONSTRATIONS. ESTIMATED 25 - 30,000 GATHERED IN AFTERNOON IN SUPPORT OF CATHOLIC CHURCH, SHOUTING, INTER ALIA, FOR RETURN OF RADIO RENASCENCA. VISEU BISHOP CALLED FOR CROWD TO BE "EXIGENT IN THEIR DEMANDS." MANY OF PARTICIPANTS TOOK PART LATER IN DAY IN PPD-SPONSORED DEMONSTRATION WITH STRONG ANTI-COMMUNIST OVERTONES. ATTEMPT TO BURN DOWN LOCAL PCP HEADQUARTERS AVERTED ONLY AFTER DEMONSTRATION LEADERS APPEALED FOR PUBLIC CALM. ANOTHER LARGE PPD MARCH TOOK PLACE SAME DAY IN VILA REAL WITHOUT INCIDENT.

3. J-5 REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR PRIME MINISTER: J-5 FIFTH DIVISION, (PROPAGANDA AND CULTURAL DYNAMIZATION) OF ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF ISSUED SECOND COMMUNIQUE EARLY MORNING JULY 21 CONDEMNING SOCIALISTS (PS) AND PRAISING PRIME MINISTER (REFTEL A). WITHOUT SPECIFYING PS, COMMUNIQUE ATTACKED LEADERS OF UNNAMED PARTY FOR USING "DEMAGOGY, FALSEHOODS, AND SLANDER" TO ENCOURAGE VIOLENCE. PS CONDUCT IS CONTRASTED WITH "PURITY AND HONESTY OF INTENT" WHICH MOTIVATED AFM ACTIONS. STATEMENT CONCLUDED WITH CALL FOR UNITY IN PURSUIT OF REVOLUTION.

4. PCP STATEMENT: PCP ISSUED STATEMENT JULY 21 ECHOING GENERAL LINE OF J-5 COMMUNIQUE. STATEMENT CLAIMED EVENTS OF JULY 19 WERE GREAT VICTORY FOR PROGRESSIVE FORCES. "MARCH ON LISBON" HAD BEEN STOPPED. PS HAD FAILED TO ACHIEVE ITS GOAL OF "OCCUPATION" OF LISBON TO PREPARE WAY FOR DEMAND FOR RESIGNATION OF PRIME MINISTER AND SETTING UP OF A RIGHT-WING GOVERNMENT. BUT, STATEMENT WARNED, DEFEATED "MARCH ON LISBON" WAS PART OF A CONTINUING BROAD CONFIDENTIAL

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REACTIONARY OFFENSIVE STILL NOT ENTIRELY OVERCOME.

5. PS COMMUNIQUE: SOCIALISTS ISSUED OWN COMMUNIQUE JULY 21 CALLING EVENTS OF JULY 18 AND 19 A LANDMARK IN STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM IN PORTUGAL AND HISTORIC DEFEAT FOR PCP LINE. STATEMENT CRITICIZED CONDUCT OF MILITARY IN MANNING ROAD-BLOCKS ERECTED BY CIVILIANS, AND CALLED FOR AN INQUIRY INTO THE COLLABORATION RENDERED BY SOME MILITARY DETACHMENTS.

STATEMENT URGED FORMATION OF A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY AND SAID PRESENCE OF GENERAL VASCO GONCALVES WOULD BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH PURPOSES OF SUCH A GOVERNMENT. STATEMENT ALSO CRITICIZED BIASED NATURE OF STATEMENTS BY J-5 IN NAME OF AFM WHICH ARE SHARPLY CRITICAL OF PS BUT MAKE NO MENTION OF PROVOCATIVE ACTS OF PCP.

6. GONCALVES DOCUMENT LEAKED: JULY 19 "EXPRESSO" CARRIED TEST OF CLASSIFIED POLITICAL ANALYSIS WRITTEN BY PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES AND ENDORSED BY AFM ASSEMBLY (REFTEL B). FOLLOWING PUBLICATION, PM'S OFFICE DECLASSIFIED AND DISTRIBUTED DOCUMENT AND CHIDED "EXPRESSO" FOR LEAK. FLAVOR OF ANALYSIS FOLLOWS: CAPITALISM IS THE REAL ENEMY OF PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION. ALTHOUGH FASCISM, AN EXPRESSION OF CAPITALISM, HAS BEEN DESTROYED, CAPITALISM SURVIVES AND IS SUBVERTING THE REVOLUTION BY MEASURES INCLUDING ECONOMIC BOYCOTT, INTERNATIONAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN, ALLIANCE WITH LEFTIST CURRENTS, AND EXPLOITATION OF "REPUBLICA" AND RADIO RENASCENCA CASES. THE OBJECTIVE OF SOCIALISM IS TO DELIVER POWER TO THE WORKERS. POWER AND AUTHORITY ARE PRESENTLY DILUTED BECAUSE OF LACK OF POLITICAL CLARIFICATION, IMPRECISE IDENTIFICATION OF THE ENEMY, AND BASIC CONTRADICTIONS IN PORTUGUESE SOCIETY. CONSTRUCTING A SOCIALIST SOCIETY HAS BROUGHT OUT PETIT-BOURGEOIS WHO FACE HARD CHOICE BETWEEN CLASS AND SOCIALIST OPTIONS. TO ENSURE SELECTION OF PROPER OPTION, A POLITICAL VANGUARD MUST ASSUME TASK OF LEADING THE REVOLUTION.

7. OTELO TO CUBA: COPCON COMMANDER GENERAL OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO DEPARTED JULY 21 ON SCHEDULE FOR WEEK-LONG VISIT TO CUBA. OTELO IS TRAVELLING AT THE INVITATION OF RAUL CASTRO. COMMENTING UPON THE TENSE POLITICAL SITUATION, UPON DEPARTURE, OTELO NOTED THAT COPCON FORCES WERE "PREPARED
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TO DEAL WITH ANY COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITY." HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD BE GETTING DIRECT DAILY REPORTS ON EVENTS IN PORTUGAL AND WAS PREPARED TO RETURN IMMEDIATELY IF NECESSARY.

8. COMMENT: VICTORY STATEMENTS BY BOTH PCP AND PS ARE INDICATION OF CONTINUING FLUIDITY OF SITUATION. PS AND PPD, AT LEAST IN THE NORTH, HAVE SHOWN THEY HAVE STRENGTH IN THE STREETS AND ARE WILLING TO RESORT TO PHYSICAL CONFRONTATION IF NECESSARY. THEY WILL HAVE TO KEEP THE PRESSURE ON AND BE PREPARED TO INCREASE IT IF THEY ARE TO HAVE ANY CHANCE TO OUST GONCALVES AND CHECK THE STEADY MOVE TO LEFT. COMMUNISTS HAVE PULLED OUT ALL THE STOPS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT VASCO GONCALVES REMAINS PRIME MINISTER. DECISION REMAINS IN HANDS OF INDECISIVE PRESIDENT AND DIVIDED RC.
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